

Applicants: Yuti Chernajovsky et al.
Serial No.: 09/285,531
Filed: April 2, 1999
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REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 6, 8, 14-17 and 19-37 are pending and under examination in the subject application. Claims 29-31 are allowed. Applicants have hereinabove cancelled claims 1-3, 6, 8, 15-17 and 19-27, and amended claims 14 and 28. Accordingly, upon entry of this Amendment, claims 14 and 28-37 will be pending and under examination.

In making these amendments, applicants neither concede the correctness of the Examiner's rejections in the June 2, 2004 Final Office Action, nor abandon the right to pursue in a continuing application embodiments of the instant invention no longer claimed in this application. Applicants maintain that these amendments to the claims do not raise any issue of new matter, and that these claims are fully supported by the specification as originally filed.

Entry of this Amendment is respectfully requested as it is believed to place the application in condition for allowance.

In view of the arguments set forth below, applicants maintain that the Examiner's objection and rejections made in the June 2, 2004 Final Office Action have been overcome, and respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw same.

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Formalities

The Examiner objected to claims 14, 28 and 32-37 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In response to the Examiner's above objection, without conceding the correctness thereof and in order to expedite prosecution of the subject application, applicants have hereinabove amended claims 14 and 28 into independent form. Thus, the Examiner's objection to claims 14, 28 and 32-37 is obviated.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §103 - Obviousness

The Examiner rejected claims 1-3, 6, 8, 15-17 and 19-27 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly obvious over Wallace et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,478,925; "Wallace I"), or Wallace et al. (European Patent No. 0 526 905; "Wallace II"), in view of Paul et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,736,387; "Paul").

The Examiner also rejected claims 1-3, 6, 8, 15-17 and 19-27 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly obvious over Smith et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,395,760; "Smith") in view of Paul.

In response to the Examiner's rejections, and without conceding the correctness thereof, applicants note that claims 1-3, 6, 8, 15-17 and 19-27 have been cancelled. Thus, the Examiner's rejections of these claims are moot.

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Summary

Applicants maintain that the claims pending are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, allowance is respectfully requested.

If a telephone conference would be of assistance in advancing prosecution of the subject application, applicants' undersigned attorney invites the Examiner to telephone him at the number provided below.

No fee is deemed necessary in connection with the filing of this Amendment. However, if any additional fee is required, authorization is hereby given to charge the amount of such fee to Deposit Account No. 03-3125.

Respectfully submitted,



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